



Iraq Reconstruction Report

A Weekly Construction & Sustainment Update

09.01.06



The Old and the New



The \$4.9M Tameem Railway Station project in Kirkuk will improve the capacity of the station to handle increasing rail freight operations. (Army Corps of Engineers Photo)

Inside this Issue

- Page 2 Village Receives New School
Railway Station Being Rebuilt
- Page 3 Sector Overview
- Page 4 USDA Announces Additional Efforts
Promoting Iraqi Worker Safety
- Page 5 Engineers Fix Crucial Bridge
- Page 6 Medical Capability Improving
- Page 7 Iraqi Government Primer
Economic Brief
- Page 8 DoD Reconstruction Partnership

Video: Equipment Donation

The 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division recently donated \$2 million in excavation equipment and vehicles to Iraqi building contractors which will be used to repair and build essential infrastructure services. View the video news report:

<http://www.dvidshub.net/vjump.php?vid=16106>



Major Project Dispatches

Basrah Erosion Control Projects to Benefit 150,000 Iraqis

Two erosion control and embankment rehabilitation projects in Basrah Province are complete. The projects – totaling \$470,000 – restored the riverbanks and provided erosion control at the Shatt Al Arab River in the Al Dayer and Al Hartha districts. The restorations help prevent flooding and also provide a firm and more durable surface for livestock to reach the river. These erosion control projects impact approximately 150,000 residents.

Najaf Road Paving Project to Give Residents Vital Access

Construction began on the Qadisiya Round Road paving project in Najaf Province. The project began last month and is estimated to be completed early next year. The \$227,000 project will provide improved access for province residents, including access to emergency services.

Hay Al Zehara Electrical Network Project Completed

Construction is complete on the Hay Al Zehara 11kV electrical network project in Al Kut, Wassit Province. The \$421,000 project involved the repair and replacement of the 11kV and 0.4kV feeders and transformers. The project will benefit 250 homes and commercial businesses in Al Kut City.

Low Voltage Network Project: Safer, More Reliable Electricity

Construction started on a low voltage network rehabilitation project in Karkh, Baghdad Province. The construction began last month and is expected to be completed by December. The \$1.2M project will install a new overhead voltage distribution network and will provide safer, more reliable electricity to approximately 5,000 residents.

DID YOU KNOW?

In partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, USAID's Agriculture Reconstruction and Development Program for Iraq has rehabilitated previously inoperable tractors. Over 4,000 tractors have been repaired with 5,000 more to be fixed by the end of this month. Many farmers suffered from the inability to access functioning machinery such as tractors during the planting and harvesting seasons.



Published by ASA(ALT)



Tal-Banat Sinjar Receives New School

Story by Sgt. Dennis Gravelle
138th MPAD

NINEVAH PROVINCE, Iraq –The 403rd Civil Affairs Battalion in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers assisted the village of Tal-Bannat Sinjar in the Ninevah Province to build a new school that will help alleviate the problems of overcrowding and provide the children with a better learning environment.

“We are assisting with the building of a secondary school that has 18 classrooms with five administration rooms,” said Lisa Lawson, project engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region North. “This project will benefit approximately 450 students.”

The school project started in Oct. 2005 and is scheduled to be completed this month. Contractors hired residents from local villages to work on the project. Most of the supplies needed to complete the building have been purchased in the local community, which added a needed boost to the economy.



A school in Tal-Banat Sinjar (Photo by Spc Yolanda Moreno)

Lawson said the cost of this project will be approximately \$330,000. “We are making a big difference here in northern Iraq,” said Lawson. “We are helping to provide water, electricity, schools, police stations, and health clinics.”

PORTAL LAUNCHED: The Iraqi Virtual Science Library is a digital portal that provides Iraqi universities and research institutes with access to collection of millions of full text articles from over 17,000 premier scientific and engineering journals and their archives. Its goal is to help rebuild the educational and scientific infrastructure in Iraq. Visit the site: <https://ivsl.org>

Rebuilding Tameem Railway Station

Story & Photo by Polli Barnes Keller
Gulf Region North, USACE

KIRKUK, Iraq – Neglected and oppressed during the Saddam era, citizens of Kirkuk are rising to rebuild their city and their country's economy. With operations back on-line in the local oil fields, other infrastructure preparation for further economic growth is underway.

The rehabilitation of the Tameem Railway Station illustrates economic support in progress. The reconstruction and rehabilitation of this facility is part of a vision for the future of the country through the development of basic services and strategic infrastructure. An operating rail system will assist in generating an economic recovery within the region.



The reconstruction and rehabilitation of the Tameem Railway Station is part of a vision for the future of the country.

Major Craig Guth, P.E. (Professional Engineer), the Kirkuk Provincial Reconstruction Team Engineer of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said, “After years of neglect of the highways and road network, the construction boom we are seeing today in Kirkuk and the need to transport fuel and oil products by road is straining the transportation system. Rail is a much more efficient alternative and is necessary for Kirkuk's continued future development.”

Improving the station's ability to handle increasing freight storage will help fulfill the vision of Iraq's future in laying the foundation for a growth economy. In the past, operational readiness and safety were aggravated by the lack of pre-war maintenance as well as the post-war looting and damage that led to its disrepair.

Renovations to this facility included the construction of many outer buildings as well as rehabilitation to the existing structures. A direct link to the high voltage grid was constructed and the lower floor of the station was rebuilt. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has monitored all quality control activities to ensure the requirements of the contract were followed and construction met all quality standards.

Iraq Reconstruction Report

Sector Overview: Current Status – Final Effects

Compiled By: John Daley, PCO Washington

As of: August 25, 2006

- Over \$9.4 billion of the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund (IRRF) has been disbursed by DoD, representing 69.9% of total funds allocated to DoD
- **3,096 projects starts (out of 3,470 planned projects).** This number includes covers the DoD projects funded by the IRRF (including MNSTC-I) and the Development Fund for Iraq (DFI)
- 2,485 projects are complete

Infrastructure Sector	Current Progress	Final Effects
Electricity	1,420 MW capacity added* Increased power generation benefiting 1.3 million homes* Improved Electricity Distribution to approximately 340K Homes* Hours of Power: 11 nationwide, 6.3 Baghdad (Aug Average)	1,879 MW capacity added* (2,555 for all USG projects) Increased power generation benefiting to 1.7 million homes* Improved Electricity Distribution to approximately 820K Homes* Hours of Power: 10-12 throughout Iraqi, 10-12 Baghdad
Oil	2.5 Million Barrels Per Day (MBPD) production capacity (2.2 MBPD current actual production) Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) production capacity of 1,200 Tons per Day	3.0 MBPD oil production capacity LPG production capacity production capacity of 3,000 Tons per Day
Water & Sewer	Added 407,000 cubic meters per day of water treatment capacity (benefits an estimated 1.9 million Iraqis)* Basrah City sewage treatment project nearing completion.	Additional 1,038,000 cubic meters per day of water treatment capacity (will benefit approximately 4.8 million Iraqis*. All USG projects will benefit 8.2 million Iraqis) All USG sewage treatment projects will benefit an estimated 5.3 million
Health	Six IRRF funded Primary Healthcare Centers (PHC) completed (three of these are open). 66 PHCs are under construction All the PHCs have now been re-awarded 11 hospitals renovated, serving approx. 5,500 patients/day	142 PHCs serving a population of 5 to 6.5 million Iraqis 20 hospitals renovated, serving approximately 10,000 patients/day.
Education	834 schools providing classrooms for 325,000 grade school students*	847 schools providing classrooms for 330,000 grade school students*
Security & Justice	342 police facilities completed 248 new border forts completed, helping to secure some 2000 miles of Iraq's borders	399 police facilities providing enhanced working conditions for Iraq's police forces. 253 new border forts, helping to secure some 2000 miles of Iraq's borders
Transportation & Communications	217 Kilometers (KM) of village roads Provided emergency response dispatch system ('911' service) covering 12 million Iraqis in 15 cities	424 KM of improved village roads enhancing access to markets and services for Iraqi rural communities 157 KM of improved major roads and five bridges Provided emergency response dispatch system ('911' service) covering 12 million Iraqis in 15 cities

USDA Announces Additional Efforts to Revitalize Iraq's Agriculture



WASHINGTON – Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns announced that ten additional USDA personnel will be dispatched to assist Iraq in revitalizing its agricultural sector. "I am truly inspired by the hope and optimism that I witnessed in Iraq. The Iraqi leaders and producers are absolutely determined to overcome the hurdles in achieving self-sufficiency and a strong economy," said Johanns. "USDA stands ready to expand our assistance as we support and applaud the efforts in Iraq." Four agricultural advisors from USDA will assist the Government of Iraq with the development of new agricultural policies and programs. Six additional USDA employees will be selected to participate in Provincial Reconstruction Teams that work at the local level in communities throughout Iraq.

Additionally, possible areas of technical cooperation include production of wheat, barley, rice, fruits, vegetables, sheep and goats, animal health initiatives, and water resources management. This initiative builds on other U.S. efforts over the past three years to help Iraq rebuild its agriculture sector, which is the second largest contributor to the economy behind oil and it has the greatest potential to provide jobs in Iraq. These efforts include private sector development, livestock and crop improvement, market development and water management. USDA is providing training to Iraqis under a fellowship program that teaches market-driven food system principles, providing \$10 million in food aid (Food for Progress agreement with US Grains Council). Overall, the U.S. has provided broad assistance, including projects such as: the rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure reaching nearly a half million rural Iraq residents, the availability of 31 tons of cleaned and treated wheat seed, and the reconstruction of nearly 70 veterinary clinics serving more than 100,000 Iraqi animal breeders.

Iraq 101 — Knowledge Brief

Natural Resources: Petroleum, natural gas, phosphates, sulfur

Terrain: Mostly broad plains; reedy marshes along Iranian border in south with large flooded areas; mountains along borders with Iran and Turkey

Area: total: 437,072 sq km land: 432,162 sq km water: 4,910 sq km. Slightly more than twice the size of Idaho

Source: World Factbook

Promoting Iraqi Worker Safety

By Mohammed Aliwi
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

THI QAR, Iraq -- One of the most profound changes over the last three years on construction projects is the emergence of site safety professionals. They are an indispensable component of the labor force and are at the forefront of the Army Corps of Engineers push for the use of proper safety procedures.



Ensuring that everyone knows the proper procedures is the main job of Russell E. Fennema, Chief of the Safety and Occupational Health Office at the Gulf Region South District.

"My biggest challenge has been the ability to spend time on job sites to train workers and local contractors how to work safely," said Fennema.

"I go to a site looking initially for the top five safety issues: fall protection, scaffolding, trenching, electricity, and stairs/ladders. I look for things that workers are doing right and try to emphasize the positive." Local contractors have started to recognize that workers are required to come to work equipped with their personal safety equipment, and all workplaces must keep first aid kits ready for any emergency that may happen during the work time.

Future generations of construction workers can expect dramatically safer job sites due to the foundations being laid today by Corps safety professionals like Fennema and the Iraqi associates he's trained.

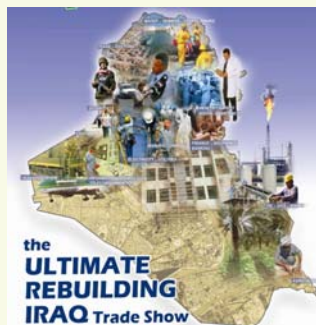
WHO and UNICEF Conduct Immunizations



A combined UN team visits an Iraqi household to administer polio vaccinations. (UN Photo)

The UN World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund supported the Iraqi Ministry of Health recently in the implementation of the second round of national polio immunization. More than 97% of the targeted 4.8 million under-five children were reached via house-to-house visits and subsequently vaccinated.

International Trade Show Announced



The second annual Kurdistan DBX International Trade Show will be held Nov. 11 -14, 2006.

Additional information can be found at the Department of Commerce, Iraq Investment and Reconstruction Task Force (IIRTF) website:

<http://www.export.gov/iraq/>

The IIRTF serves as clearinghouses of information for U.S. companies interested in Iraq. Additionally, it works closely with the U.S Embassy in Iraq, other U.S. government agencies, and international organizations to provide U.S. companies with the latest information on the commercial environment in Iraq and potential reconstruction business opportunities.

General exporting inquiries should be directed to the Trade Information Center at 1-800-USA-TRADE.

For press inquiries, please call Office of Public Affairs, International Trade Administration, (202) 482-3809.

Combined Marine - Soldier Team: Goal to Fix Local Water Supply



U.S. Marines and Soldiers speak to a water facility owner in Sadiquiyah, Iraq. The military team, consisting of engineers and civil affairs specialists, was making a joint effort to fix the facility to provide Iraqis with clean water. (Photo by Lance Cpl. Ray Lewis)

Engineers Fix Crucial Bridges

Story and Photos by Spc. C. Terrell Turner
4th Inf. Div

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Soldiers from the 50th Engineer Company, 84th Engineer Brigade, traveled north of Baghdad on a mission to repair and maintain bridges. These bridges are crucial to the Multi-National Division – Baghdad, Iraqi Security Forces and local citizens. Iraqi army soldiers, with the help of Soldiers from the 66th Armor Regiment, and 10th Cavalry Regiment provided security for the operation.



A key concern of the MND-B and ISF is the maintenance of infrastructure for the local communities; many bridges, constructed by combat engineer units, are in need of maintenance and repair.

The 50th Eng. Soldiers, who are stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., traveled from Balad Air Base to a bridge in the Taji region to repair and upgrade existing military bridges.

"Every once in a while, these things get blown up and we deploy to build quick bridges to maintain the infrastructure. We need to be ready to deploy in a matter of hours," said 1st Lt. Nate Hanawalt, bridge platoon, 50th Eng. Co.

In its ninth month of deployment, the unit surpassed the 50 bridge mission mark after a mere six months, said Hanawalt. The company is one of the largest bridge units operating in theater.

In addition to building float bridges and repairing dry bridges, the unit also trains Iraqi engineer soldiers and military units from other countries including Georgia and Romania.

"This is our third trip here to Taji," said Staff Sgt. Keelin Scott, section leader, 50th Eng. Co. "Three of our other teams came here before to train Iraqis on different types of bridges and equipment. In fact, we sent a reconnaissance NCO out on a training mission with a group of Iraqis and noticed the need for repairs."

"It can be a challenging job at times, but enjoyable," said Spc. Kevin Sentieri, boat operator, 50th Eng. Co. "The hardest part is building at night. It just adds another level of complexity to an operation."

Iraq's Military Medical Capability Improving, Iraqi General Says

By Steven Donald Smith
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Iraq's military medical system is not equal to its U.S. counterpart, but is improving on a daily basis, the surgeon general of Iraq's armed forces said here yesterday. "We are in the process of building this system," Iraqi army Brig. Gen. Samir A. Hassan said. "We have expanded more and more to meet the expansion of the armed forces."

Samir is an orthopedic specialist by training who became surgeon general in June 2004 at the age of 38. His staff of fewer than 80 people serves more than 160,000 Iraqi soldiers, sailors and airmen.

He met recently in Washington with various U.S. defense officials, including Dr. William Winkenwerder, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs. Samir also visited several military medical facilities here, including Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Iraq has an amputee center in its medical system, but it does not equal the level of care at Walter Reed, he said. He said he was impressed by the advanced technology of the prosthetics and the expertise of the hospital's staff. He said he would like for some of his doctors to come to Walter Reed for training.

He explained that the Iraqi military medical system gets help from the United States, but is a completely separate system. "We are doing our own, but with their help," he said. "We tell them what we need, and they try to facilitate our mission."

Iraq's military has good Level II medical centers, which provide basic emergency care, he said. But the military depends on the country's civilian Ministry of Health for sophisticated Level I trauma care, like major surgery, he said. However, by the end of 2008, Iraq will have its first full-scale military hospital, he said.

A shortage of doctors joining the Iraqi security forces is one of his biggest challenges, he said. Another challenge is Iraq's government bureaucracy. "I don't like it (his job) sometimes because of many obstacles," Samir said. "You might have many things in your mind and heart to do, and you find silly people for silly reasons obstructing the progress of the country."

The general said he felt confident about the long-term prospects of Iraqi military medicine and his country as a whole. "The country will be the unique example in the Middle East as a country of democracy and freedom," he said.



An Iraqi medic holds a saline bag for a soldier with simulated wounds during convoy training. (Photo by Maj. David Olson),

"No country in the world has had free elections and failed," he said. "All Western countries and Japan and others progress because they have democracy and freedom."

The rigors of his job caught up with him in September 2005 when he was hospitalized after vomiting blood due to stress-related issues. He was given a transfusion with American blood. "I have U.S. blood in my body; you see why I speak English so well," he joked.

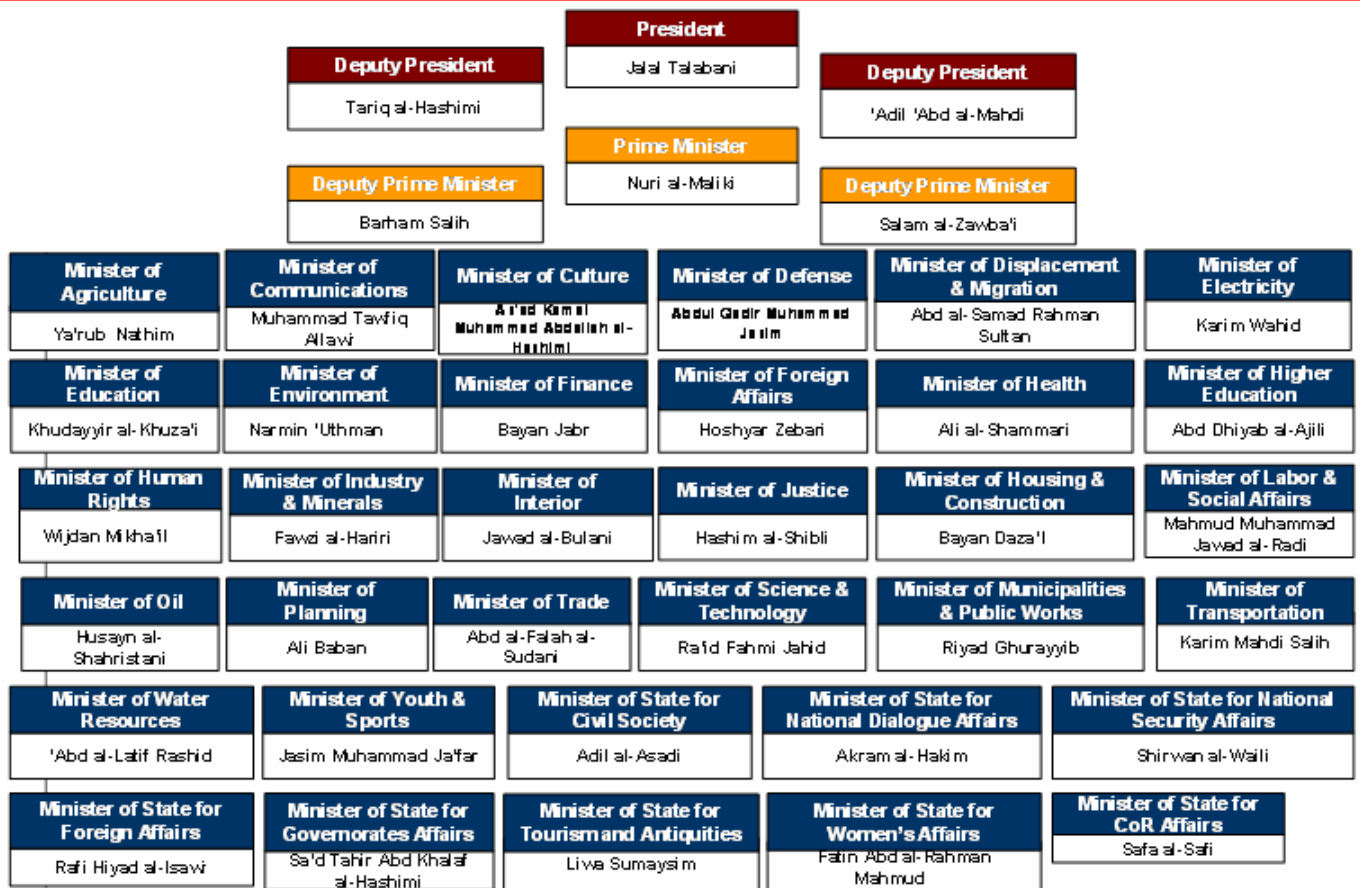
Samir is the oldest of seven children born in Baghdad to illiterate parents. He went to medical school and joined the former Iraqi army to help take care of his family, he said. He was the first medical officer to join the new Iraqi army. He said he volunteered because he was eager to serve his country. "It's my country," he said. "If I don't go and the others don't go, who will build the country?"

An area that needs to be improved among his medical corps is its response time to wounded troops. He said the U.S. responds very quickly when its troops get wounded, but Iraq loses many wounded soldiers because they don't have the same lightning-fast capability.

Iraq Reconstruction Report

Iraqi Government Primer

Source: Department of State (Aug. 23, 2006)



Economic Brief: Loan Guarantee Corporation

- The Iraqi Company for Bank Guarantees (ICBG) announced its opening recently. Equipped with \$3.5 million for start-up capital, the ICBG will guarantee bank loans to small and medium-sized enterprises.
- The Chairman of the ICBG Board explained that 12 Iraqi banks were already working with ICBG and the minimum value for the guaranteed loans was \$5,000 and the maximum value was \$250,000 at an annual interest rate of two percent.
- The ICBG signed a bilateral agreement with the Jordan Bank Guarantees Corporation according to which the Jordanian corporation will provide the ICBG with expertise and train the company's staff.

Fill'er Up!



An Iraqi man fills up a tank with water given to him by Iraqi and American Soldiers in Muwaylihah. (U.S. Army Photo)

Iraq Reconstruction Report

A Reconstruction Partnership

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	<p> US Army Corps of Engineers - Gulf Region Division http://www.grd.usace.army.mil/index.html Commanding General: <i>Maj. Gen. William H. McCoy, Jr.</i></p>
	<p>Iraq Project & Contracting Office http://www.rebuilding-iraq.net Director- Baghdad: <i>Maj. Gen. William H. McCoy, Jr. (dual-hatted GRD-PCO)</i> Deputy Director for Reconstruction: <i>Ms. Kathy Johnson</i> Director-Washington: <i>Mr. James M. Crum</i></p>
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For further Iraq reconstruction, transition, and sustainment information:

U.S. Department of Commerce: <http://www.export.gov/iraq>

U.S. Embassy in Iraq: <http://iraq.usembassy.gov>

U.S. Central Command: <http://www.centcom.mil>

Multi-National Force – Iraq: <http://www.mnf-iraq.com>

Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq: <http://www.mnstci.iraq.centcom.mil/>



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